

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 191819Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6976

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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USMISSION USUN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CN, FR

SUBJECT: COMORO ISLANDS

1. IN CONVERSATION JAN. 19, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA HAREL TOOK ISSUE WITH COMPARISON MADE IN RECENT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BETWEEN FRENCH WITHDRAWAL FROM GUINEA AND COMOROS. HE SAID THE FRENCH HAVE LEFT BEHIND THE THREE OR FOUR MOST ESSENTIAL OF THE FORTY-ODD CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WORKED IN COMOROS, HAD REMOVED NO EQUIPMENT, AND HAVE INFORMED THE MORONI GOVERNMENT OF THE GOF'S WILLINGNESS TO CONCLUDE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS. PART OF THE FAULT, HE SAID, IS WITH THE COMOROS GOVERNMENT WHICH INSISTS ON NEGOTIATING FOR THE FOUR ISLANDS, A CONDITION THE FRENCH CANNOT MEET UNLESS THE MAYOTTE POPULATION UNEXPECTEDLY VOTES FOR ATTACHMENT TO THE COMOROS IN THE FEBRUARY REFERENDUM. FRANCE ALSO IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT MORONI'S REQUEST FOR ASSOCIATION WITH THE EC UNDER THE LOME ACCORD, BUT WOULD HAVE TO OPPOSE ANY EC PROJECT FOR MAYOTTE.

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2. HAREL APPARENTLY HAS A FAINT HOPE THAT THE MORONI GOVERNMENT WILL FINALLY DECIDE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE FRENCH ON TERMS THEY CAN ACCEPT. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITIES WHEN THEY OPEN THEIR EMBASSY IN THE ISLANDS.

RUSH

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Message Attributes

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